

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

This letter requires a careful answer. Many ought to be received; but the Editor would like to say at once that the child has evidently been doing Class III. work, when it should have been placed in Class IV., and that the P.R.S. programme in the hand of an untrained teacher seem to have been used as a wooden system. The student consulted should write to those teachers whom the German lady has warned against an educational scheme of whose spirit she is entirely ignorant, and do her best to remove their misconceptions. The wide curriculum is one of the main planks of our platform, of course, but so also is the adaption of training to the needs of the individual, that is where the German broke down.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to bring a certain case that has come under my notice before the students generally, and ask what is their opinion on the matter.

There is a girl here whom I will call A, about thirteen years old, and doing P.R.S. work. She is especially gifted as regards talent for languages, and her mother has arranged for her to have German lessons so many times a week with the German lady, Fräulein P., teaching at the High School. With the special teaching and her natural gifts, she is able to do really advanced work, but Fräulein P. complains of the P.R.S. programme as hampering her at every turn. A's mother insists on the programme work taking precedence of all other, and more serious than that, the girl, finding the work set for her contemporaries beneath her capacity, has now formed such an opinion of her own knowledge, that she can with difficulty be persuaded to do higher work.

Fräulein P. is a keen educationalist, and says that when the P.N.E.U. branch here was first formed she hailed it joyfully. She thought the common meeting ground for parents and teachers would be a foretaste of the millenium; but now, alas! she not only dislikes the P.R.S. herself, but says she has warned other teachers against it.

I have told her that the idea of the programme of work was mainly to secure for the children a wide curriculum. If any pupil was above or below the standard in arithmetic, for example, one would not dream of confining the term's work to the portion set in the programme. This idea reconciled her slightly to the P.R.S., but she contended that *if that were* the case it ought to be stated more clearly on the programme.

The points I should like to have discussed are:—(1) Was I right in saying "Mainly a wide curriculum?" If so, (2) Have other students come across similar cases?—Yours truly,

E. M. B.

June 15th.

DEAR EDITOR,

Possibly this may yet be in time for this month's "Pianta," and some extracts from a letter I received this morning may interest some ex-student.

Miss Oakley, who has visited Miss Mason at Scale How "has an orphanage for poor children at Dulwich. In the summer the children are in the country at Farnham Royal, and the four ladies who have charge of the Orphanage have holidays in turn. They need extra help then. Miss Oakley says that the work is not at all hard. Whoever goes would have to teach for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, and twice a week would have to superintend the children's getting up in the morning and going to bed at night. The children are taken in between the ages of two and seven, and are kept and trained for domestic service.

"Miss Oakley, who is very interesting and very nice, showed us photographs of the children, etc., and quite fired us with enthusiasm. Miss Mason suggested that she might write a letter to the 'Pianta,' asking for a volunteer for a few weeks in the summer, but it is too late to do that for this year."

If any ex-student would like to undertake this, will she kindly write, as soon as possible, to Miss W. S. Henderson, 19, Moray Place, Strathbungo, Glasgow, N.B.?

As Miss Henderson is probably going to Canada, the letter must reach her before August 1st.

If this date is too early, I should be pleased to send Miss Oakley's address and any details I may have heard about the Orphanage to anyone who will write for them.

With apologies for again troubling you with a letter,
Yours sincerely,

M. E. FRANKLIN.